

**[1]**

***Living in HisStory: Silencing the Boast***

**1 Samuel 16 - 17**

**December 21, 2017, James Ryan Davis**

Good Morning everyone!

For those of you who may not know me, My name is Ryan and I am one of the Interns working with the youth here at CRBC. I head up the Sr. youth program that we run on Tuesday nights and I get the privilege of sharing the Word of God with you all this morning. We're to jump back into the ongoing narrative that we've been looking for the last number of months.

Back at the start of December, we looked at a guy named Saul. Saul was the first king of Israel. The nation of Israel looked around at all the other nations and decided that they wanted a king, just like everyone else. So long story short, God warned the nation what would happen if they were ruled by a king, but they cried out all the more, so God selected Saul. He had his ups and his downs. He had moments where he seemed to be following God's orders and humbling himself before God's will, but ultimately Saul let his fears get the best of him and he did not obey the Lord.

Where Pastor Jeff ended the narrative last time was in 1 Samuel 15.

**[2]**

**1 Samuel 15:28 (NLT)**

**15 And Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to someone else - one who is better than you."**

This is the point that I get to pick up and carry on! Which is great, because I get to introduce one of my favorite people in Old Testament literature.

Today we are going to be looking at the anointing of David as the new king over Israel and we're going to look at what has probably become my single, favorite, account in the Old Testament, David versus Goliath.

David is such an interesting guy and the account of David and Goliath is a very entertaining, fast-paced encounter, but I think that some of the other things that David had going on, up to that point, are quite fascinating and worth looking at as well.

We are going to be covering just two chapters today, 1 Samuel 16 and 17. If you haven't read them yet, I would encourage you to read them for yourself and see what God was doing.

Let's pick up from where we left off with Saul and moved towards David.

**[3]**

### **1 Samuel 15:35 - 16:1 (NLT)**

**35 Samuel never went to meet with Saul again, but he mourned constantly for him. And the Lord was sorry he had ever made Saul king of Israel.**

**1 Now the Lord said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king."**

Samuel had watched the rise and fall of Saul. He had done what he could to equip Saul to Follow the Lord commands, to warn Saul to choose humility over pride.

In the end, Saul let his own image become greater than his reverence for God. He let his pride get the better of him, and he let his fear of man become a snare.

Saul was supposed to be Samuel's replacement. Samuel was the judge over Israel and was already old by the time God-appointed Saul, so by the time God rejected Saul, Samuel was Really old.

I think this lends a bit to why Samuel's grieving so hard over the apparent loss of Saul. Samuel's two sons have already fallen short of the mantle of Judges over Israel, and Saul his God-appointed replacement was more or less a complete flop! What's an old Judge to do!

God tells Samuel to go see Jesse the Bethlehemite because the next king is one of his sons. So in obedience Samuel loads up and treks off. So let's meet David.

[4]

**1 Samuel 16:6-12 (NLT)**

**6** When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Surely this is the Lord’s anointed!”

**7** But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

**8** Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “This is not the one the Lord has chosen.”

**9** Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, “Neither is this the one the Lord has chosen.”

[5]

**10** In the same way all seven of Jesse’s sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.”

**11** Then Samuel asked, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse replied. “But he’s out in the fields watching the sheep and goats.”

“Send for him at once,” Samuel said. “We will not sit down to eat until he arrives.”

**12** So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the Lord said, “This is the one; anoint him.”

God told Samuel that one of Jesse’s sons was to be the next king of Israel. So when Samuel gets to Bethlehem what does he do, he assumes that because Saul was big and strong, the next king probably should be as well! Eliab enters the room and Samuel is convinced. This is the guy!

[6]

**1 Samuel 16:6 (NLT)**

**6** When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Surely this is the Lord’s anointed!”

But God had a different plan.

### **1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT)**

**7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”**

**[7]**

Samuel was looking for another Saul. He was looking for someone who was large in stature and looked like a warrior.

God was looking for someone with a humble heart and meek demeanor and a Faith that stood up to adversity.

I want to teach you all a new word today. You’ll have to forgive me, but I am currently in school and learned a new word recently and I really like it, so I’m going to share it! So my new word is Christophany.

Now a Christophany is a foreshadow or a reflection of Christ, often referring to Old Testament literature. In other words, it’s a representation of Christ and I think David is a strong old testament representation of the coming Christ. Now obviously David had his flaws. But you don’t get called “a man after God’s own heart” lightly.

As we move through the rest of our story, I want you to try and pick up on a few main points that highlight David as a Christophany. A representation of Christ. There are more than just these ones, but we’re going to keep it a shortened list.

We’re going to be looking at:

**[8]**

**The preparation of a young boy from Bethlehem**

**A Giants boast**

**The inconspicuous savior**

Let’s jump back into our story, Israel is in a bit of a mess and they don’t even really know it. God knows, Samuel knows, and Saul knows, but the rest of the nation, doesn’t

know that their God-given leader Saul, has fallen out of God's favor.

As far as they are concerned, Saul is doing great. He's their warrior King. He's led them to victory after victory on the battlefield and in those days there was no shortage of battles to be fought.

**[9]**

**1 Samuel 17:1-4 (NLT)**

**1 The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephes-dammim.**

**2 Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah.**

**3 So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them.**

**4 Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall!**

So Goliath, the Philistine Giant, comes out and utters his challenge to Israel.

**[10]**

**1 Samuel 17:8-11 (NLT)**

**8 Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me!**

**9 If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves!**

**10 I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!"**

**11 When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.**

Now if you were here when Pastor Jeff introduced Saul, you may remember how Saul

was described. Remember how he had tried to hide among the baggage.

[11]

**1 Samuel 10:23-24 (NLT)**

**23 So they found him and brought him out, and he stood head and shoulders above anyone else.**

**24 Then Samuel said to all the people, “This is the man the Lord has chosen as your king. No one in all Israel is like him!”  
And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!”**

Saul was supposed to be Israel’s hero. When Goliath came out and called to the armies of Israel. It was a call for Saul, Israel’s “Giant” to come out and fight for them. But instead, Saul let fear get the best of him and he shrunk away from a battle that was rightfully his.

It is so easy for me to relate to Saul in this instance. When there is a challenge that is way bigger than me and what I think I can do, all I want to do is shrink and hide and act like its someone else's problem. Someone else can deal with it. If I stay quiet long enough, someone else will answer that call.

Does anybody else feel like that sometimes?

Let's carry on with the story,

One day David’s father Jesse sent him to Saul’s camp to go check on his older brother’s who have gone off with Saul to fight the Philistines. David gets there just as everyone is gathering in battle formation so David just slipped on in and goes to find his brothers. While there, David hears the taunt of Goliath, and watches as the whole army shrinks in fear of Goliath. He hears them start to whisper amongst themselves.

[12]

**1 Samuel 17:25-27 (NLT)**

**25 “Have you seen the giant?” the men asked. “He comes out each day**

to defy Israel. The king has offered a huge reward to anyone who kills him. He will give that man one of his daughters for a wife, and the man's entire family will be exempted from paying taxes!"

**26** David asked the soldiers standing nearby, "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?"

**27** And these men gave David the same reply. They said, "Yes, that is the reward for killing him."

[13]

**1 Samuel 17:30 (NLT)**

**30** He walked over to some others and asked them the same thing and received the same answer.

I've got to be honest. I found this part kind of funny when I was reading it. It almost seems like there is a disconnect between what David is asking and how the people are responding. David is asking about restoring the Lord's honor.

Saul is essentially bribing people to fight his fight. And it sort of seems to be working, because apart from David, everyone else seems to be focused on their material or temporal gain if they defeat Goliath.

Ok, we're gonna power through some verses and watch what happened.

[14]

**1 Samuel 17:31-43 (NLT)**

**31** Then David's question was reported to King Saul, and the king sent for him.

**32** "Don't worry about this Philistine," David told Saul. "I'll go fight him!"

**33** “Don’t be ridiculous!” Saul replied. “There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.”

**34** But David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said. “When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock,

[15]

**35** I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death.

**36** I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God!

**37** The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!”

Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the Lord be with you!”

**38** Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail.

[16]

**39** David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before.

“I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul. “I’m not used to them.” So David took them off again.

**40** He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

**41** Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him,

**42** sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy.

**43** “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods.

Now, this is where all the action happens, but it is a little bit intense!

[17]



## 1 Samuel 17:48-51

**48 As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him.**

**49 Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.**

**50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.**

**51 Then David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head.**

There we go! We got through it!

This is an account that absolutely captures my imagination. I hear it, or I read it and I can almost see it. It's such a fascinating story with so much happening.

The challenge for us here today, sitting in CRBC, is what do we do with this? what does this have to do with us?

For the last couple months we've been diving into HisStory, and we've been looking at three threads that have been woven through all of the encounters we've covered.

### [18]

1. God is up to something! He's restoring the peace that was lost in the garden.
2. Satan is also up to something - He wants to destroy God's peace
3. Without God's amazing grace and power, we naturally move away from God.

I think this whole exchange from Saul to David, and then David versus Goliath shows these three threads very clearly.

### [19]

First, we have Saul. Saul is the picture of what it looks like to move away from God. He let his pride and his fear cloud his judgment and he walked away from God's way of doing life, and as a result, lost God's blessing.

### [20]

Next, we have Goliath. The champion of the Philistines. Can you guess which thread he is?

Goliath drove almost the whole nation of Israel into a state of fear and panic. He was wrecking and destroying peace and stirring up discord, which is what Satan does.

And finally, we have the last thread, the Scarlet thread - God is up to something!! Do you remember back to the start of my sermon when I asked you to be looking for a couple different points within the story that showcase David as a Christophany, or a representation of Jesus Christ.

The first point we were looking for was;

**[21]**

### **The Preparation of a Young Boy from Bethlehem**

David was essentially a nobody. He was the youngest son of a family from Bethlehem. He was the family's shepherd, and shepherds in that culture were the bottom of the pile. It was not a good job.

But it was through that low position that God taught David how to look after for those in his care and how to trust God for deliverance.

As a shepherd, David had to fight for his sheep, and as we read in chapter 17:34-36, David had to face some formidable challenges, like lions and bears, which is why I like how David responds in chapter 17:39-40 when he is preparing to face Goliath. Saul is trying to equip David, he tried to get David to wear all the armor and fight with a sword and do battle the normal way.

**[22]**

### **1 Samuel 17:38-40 (NLT)**

**38** Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail.

**39** David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before.

“I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul. “I’m not used to them.” So David took them off again.

**40** He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

It’s important that we see this.

[23]

David wasn’t trusting in the ways of the world to fight this battle. Everyone around David was all geared up for war. They had their **armour**, their **bows**, their **swords**, their **shields**.

David relied on the Lord, and David trusted in what the Lord had shown him instead of the ways of those around him. So he cast off every piece of equipment and then David fought with the knowledge of what God had already done and with **faith** in what God was about to do.

Can you think of someone else from the little town of Bethlehem?  
Someone who was meek and humble and trusted God, the Father with life and death?

We’ve been covering the Christmas story the last two weeks, the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the King of Kings born in a barn and laid to sleep in a manger, the one with all power and authority who humbled Himself to walk beside us and to show us what faith in the Father looked like.

[24]

### **A Giants Boast**

We talked about the threads running throughout history.  
One of them being that Satan is trying to destroy God’s peace.  
He taunts and boasts about the power of **sin and death!**

For forty days straight, Goliath stood up to the whole army of Israel, God’s army, and he taunted them. He mocked them. He mocked their king and he mocked their God.  
And no one dared stand up to him. The whole Nation of Israel was crippled by fear.

Except for David.

David answered Goliath's taunt and silenced it once and for all.

David answered Goliath's challenge because he could not stand the reproach that hung over Israel from the giant's taunts.

He wasn't concerned with material values or fame. He simply had to step into the gap and fight for God's people.

[25]

David answered the boast of Goliath,  
Who had the answer to the boast of Sin and Death?  
Who was it that stepped into the gap for us?

Lastly:

[26]

### **The Inconspicuous Saviour**

David was not who anyone expected.

He was a little shepherd from a little farm.

He didn't look the way people thought he should look and he didn't fight the way people thought he should in order to step up to the plate and deliver them from the clutches of Goliath.

[27]

### **1 Samuel 17:33 (NLT)**

**33     “Don't be ridiculous!” Saul replied. “There's no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You're only a boy, and he's been a man of war since his youth.”**

and again when Goliath saw David he was

[28]

## 1 Samuel 17:42 (NLT)

**42     sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy.**

Everybody saw David as this “ruddy” youth. If you read through the whole story, David is described as ruddy many times over. He had that healthy rosy-cheeked, boyish charm, unassuming look to him.

Remember back when David was anointed, even Samuel himself thought it should have been David’s eldest brother Eliab that got God’s blessing.

**[29]**

But God sees and does things in a different way than we do.

It was David, the shepherd from Bethlehem, the inconspicuous youth, who fought and delivered Israel from the boasting of the giant Goliath.

And it was Christ, the inconspicuous carpenter from Bethlehem, who lived a perfect sinless life, who answered the boast of sin on our lives. He died on the cross and defeated death once and for all by raising to life three days later.

**[30]**

## Romans 6:9-10 (NLT)

**9     We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.**

**10    When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God.**

David fought for the glory of God.

The battle of David and Goliath was a picture of what Christ was going to do.

David is also an example to us of what it looks like to live and thrive by walking in faith. David took courage by looking at what God had already done in, order to **trust** in what God was going to do.

Everyday there is a Goliath, who stands and shouts and tries to drive us back into a

fear-filled existence.

In my own life, I have heard the taunting and boasting of a giant. Have you? I have shared this with my youth before, but I don't think I have shared it with many of you.

For many years I struggled with a hidden drug addiction that had a crippling grip on my life.

Many, many times I tried to rally my own strength and courage and face it.

I was like the Israelite army, drawing up in battle lines against the Philistines. I would make up my mind and say "today is the day. No More!"

I would make a whole bunch of noise and rattle my armour and beat my chest and try to stand firm on the line in the sand that I had drawn, and everytime I did, my giant just laughed at me and roared its threats of exposing me to those I loved and I would shrink back in fear.

I tried everything I could think of in my own power to fight off my addiction, but I could never win.

I was at the point in my life, when I was ready to give up hope and give up my life to that giant, that I let Christ step into the arena of battle in my life.

The amazing gift of Christ is that we don't have to fight by ourselves.

Jesus Christ has come, He has paid the price and He has given us victory over that boast of sin and death.

I get to stand up here today and chat with all of you beautiful people because Christ stepped into the gap, paid the price for my life and fought the battle that I could never fight.

Everyone here today has their own story.

Everyone here has their own struggles and trials.

We all have giants in our lives that roar for battle and try to force us back into a fear-filled existence.

But God is up to something.

[31]

**John 16:33 (NLT)**

**33 “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”**

[32]

My wife found this picture and I think this is a wonderful illustration for this topic. Our God is way bigger than any Goliath or any other giant that tries to drive us down.

You can have victory over your giants, If you authentically and humbly choose to give your heart to Jesus and let Him step into your battle.

Lets pray...